



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT OF KNOX COUNTY MAN ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES**

*Indictment is latest local success in U.S. Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

VINCENNES – Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced that Brent Brazier, 38, of Edwardsport, was charged with possession of a firearm by a person previously convicted of a felony. This prosecution follows an investigation by the Indiana State Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and local law enforcement.

“Together with law enforcement from across Knox County, we are sending a serious message with these indictments that the days of using our local jails as a revolving door are over,” Hogsett said. “As part of our ongoing Violent Crime Initiative, we are targeting repeat offenders and taking these ‘worst of the worst’ elements off our streets and punishing them with the full force of federal law.”

The indictment alleges that on or about October 22, 2011, Brazier was found by law enforcement to possess a loaded Phoenix Arms .22 caliber pistol. The charge further alleges that Brazier was previously convicted for the unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance and the unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

This prosecution was the latest local success in the U.S. Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative (VCI). Announced by Hogsett in March of this year, the VCI represents a comprehensive district-wide strategy to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities through improved local collaboration and aggressive federal prosecution.

Already in 2011, the VCI has caused a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges – from 14 felony possession of a firearm charges in 2010 to 101 thus far in 2011. Major

drug trafficking indictments are up more than 100% from where they were two years ago. And drug trafficking seizures have increased by more than seven-fold over 2010 numbers.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Barry D. Glickman, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Brazier faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a possible fine of up to \$250,000. An initial hearing on the indictment will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Terre Haute.

The charge is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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